

Serial No. 09/730,219
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Substitute Claims

a! 1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a file format from a plurality of stored file formats for use in performing a translation from ~~said a~~ selected file format to a requested file format, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a data file in a requested format: ~~and~~

determining an optimal file format of said data file from a plurality of stored file formats of said data file ~~files~~ for use in performing said translation to said requested file format: and

translating the optimal file format of said data file determined in said determining step to the requested file format.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method according to claim 1 wherein said determining step is based upon minimizing data loss from said translation.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method according to claim 1 wherein said determining step is based upon minimizing the file size of the translated data file.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method according to claim 1 wherein said determining step is based upon the requested file format and ~~the~~-available stored file formats.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method according to claim 1 wherein said determining step further includes the step of consulting an optimized list of file formats from which to perform said translation of said ~~stored~~-data file to the requested file format.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method according to claim 5 wherein said list is indexed by said requested file format.

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7. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method according to claim 5 wherein said optimized list is consulted if the ~~stored~~ data file is stored in a plurality of formats.

a 8. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method according to claim 5 wherein said consulting step further includes selecting one of said optimized list from a plurality of said optimized lists.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method according to claim 8 wherein ~~the~~ ordering of said optimized lists is based on criterion regarding the translation to be performed on the ~~stored~~ data file.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method according o claim 9 wherein said criterion is defined by the ~~a~~ received request for said data file.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method according to claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

accessing a portion of said optimized list ordered based upon the requested file format;

determining whether one or more of said listed file formats exists as one of said stored file formats; and

selecting from said optimized list the optimal file format that is determined to exist as a stored file format.

12. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a digital processing apparatus and tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the digital processing apparatus to perform method steps for selecting a file format from a plurality of stored file formats for use in performing a translation from said selected file format to a requested file format, the method comprising the steps of:

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receiving a request for a data file in a requested file format; and

determining an optimal file format from a plurality of stored ~~files~~ file formats of said data file for use in performing said translation to said requested file format.

13 (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ program storage device according to claim 12 wherein said determining step is based upon minimizing data loss from said translation.

a 14. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ program storage device according to claim 12 wherein said determining step is based upon minimizing the file size of ~~the translated~~ translation of said data file.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ program storage device according to claim 12 wherein said determining step is based upon the requested file format and the available stored file formats.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ program storage device according to claim 12 wherein said determining step further includes the step of

consulting an optimized list of file formats from which to perform said translation of said ~~stored-data~~ file to the requested file format.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ program storage device according to claim 16 wherein said list is indexed by said requested file format.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ program storage device according to claim 16 wherein said optimized list is consulted if the ~~stored-data~~ file is stored in a plurality of formats.

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19. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The program storage device according to claim 16 wherein said consulting step further includes selecting one of said optimized lists from a plurality of said optimized lists.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The program storage device according to claim 19 wherein the ordering of said optimized lists is based on criterion regarding the translation to be performed on the ~~stored~~ data file.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The program storage device according to claim 20 wherein said criterion is defined by the a received request for said data file.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The program storage device according to claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

accessing a portion of said optimized list ordered based upon the requested file format;

determining whether one or more of said listed file formats exists as one of said stored file formats; and

selecting from said optimized list the optimal file format that is determined to exist as a stored file format.

23 (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selecting a file format from a plurality of stored file formats for use in performing a translation from said selected file format to a requested file format, said apparatus comprising:

an interface ~~element~~ for receiving a request for a data file in a requested file format; and

~~a~~ translation optimization logic coupled to said interface for determining an optimal one of a plurality of file format from a plurality of stored files ~~formats~~ for use in performing said translation to said requested file format.